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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C. NET APP			SYED, FARHAN M	
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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			2165	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS	01/24/2007		PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/772,643	STAGER ET AL.
	Examiner Farhan M. Syed	Art Unit 2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date (See Attached Sheet).
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-34 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 27 October 2006 and 14 December 2006 was considered by the examiner.

Response to Remarks

3. In the Applicant's arguments, see page 12, filed 27 October 2006, the Examiner acknowledges the cancellation of claim 19.

Drawing

4. Applicant's arguments, see page 12, filed 27 October 2006, with respect to the drawings have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of the drawings in the non-final action dated 26 July 2006 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Applicant's arguments, see pages 12-13, filed 27 October 2006, with respect to the rejection of claims 5 and 9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 5 and 9 in the non-final action dated 26 July 2006 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. Applicant's arguments, see page 13, filed 27 October 2006, with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 10 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1 and 10 in the non-final action dated 26 July 2006 has been withdrawn.

Response to Argument

7. Applicant's arguments filed 18 July 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant argues:

"Kedem fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 1 and therefore cannot be used to anticipate claim 1"

"Kedem fails to disclose all the elements of claim 10 and therefore cannot be used to anticipate claim 10."

"Kedem fails to disclose all the elements of claim 14 and therefore cannot be used to anticipate 14."

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As per claims 1, 10, and 14, Kedem teaches a system for providing continuous data protection (i.e. *"As discussed above, there are other types of dynamic resource assignments that the storage system may employ in addition to dynamically assigning some targets as hot spares. Another example involves a feature provided in the SYMMETRIX line of disk arrays known as "dual copy" or "business continuance volumes" ("DC/BCVs")."* *"After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time"* *"Alternatively, once the need for a point-in-time copy of the logical volume ceases, the DC/BCV volume can be dynamically assigned to another logical volume, or can be kept idle and available for use to make a point-in-time copy of another logical volume."* The preceding text clearly indicates that continuous data protection is the business continuance volumes. Kadem states that a connection MAY be de-established, but does not state that connection must be disconnected, as the Applicant argues. Furthermore, an active, idle connection may also exist, as Kadem point out. Therefore, the continuity of data protection is clearly anticipated by

Kadem.)(Column 5, lines 66-67; column 6, lines 1-4, lines 11-13, lines 25-30), the system comprising: a host computer (i.e. "Typically, data in a mass data storage system is accessed from a host computer in units called "logical volumes," with the host computer writing or reading data to the storage system using a logical volume address or "logical device volume number" (hereafter DV#).") (Column 1, lines 29-33); a primary volume for storing data written by the host computer (i.e. "Alternatively, it is possible in many systems to configure each physical storage device to store two or more logical volumes." "One example of this involves the dynamic assignment, during operation, of one or more of the system's physical devices (e.g., a disk drive or a portion thereof) to store a particular logical volume." The preceding text clearly indicates that a primary volume is one logical volume that stores data, which stored on a physical storage device.)(Column 1, lines 35-37; lines 45-48); a secondary volume wherein writes made to the primary volume are sequentially duplicated onto the secondary volume (i.e. "As discussed above, a statically configured DC/BCV logical volume (e.g., DV2) may be dynamically assigned as a DC/BCV copy of another logical volume in the system (e.g., DV0 or DV1). When a DC/BCV assignment is made, the volume of which a copy is made (e.g., DV0 or DV1) is referred to as the "primary" DC/BCV volume, and the DC/BCV volume (e.g., DV2) that makes the point-in-time copy is referred to as the "secondary" DC/BCV volume." The preceding text clearly indicates that sequentially duplicated is a copy between the primary and secondary volume.)(Column 17, lines 51-58), the secondary volume containing a chronological ordering of all writes made to the primary volume (i.e. "It should be appreciated that many storage systems employ mirroring techniques for fault tolerance and performance reasons. For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different drives. When a logical volume is written, the write is carried out to all mirrors of the logical volume" The preceding text clearly indicates that when mirroring takes place, an ordinary person skilled in the art understands that mapping of the two logical volumes must occur for the

mirroring to take place. Thereby, any and all writes are chronologically ordered (i.e. mirrored) between the two volumes.)(Column 5, lines 3-13); and a data protection system configured to manage the duplication of writes to the secondary volume and to map data between the primary volume and secondary volume using data structures, wherein the data structures are maintained so that within the established time window (i.e. "As discussed above, a statically configured DC/BCV logical volume (e.g., DV2) may be dynamically assigned as a DC/BCV copy of another logical volume in the system (e.g., DV0 or DV1). When a DC/BCV assignment is made, the volume of which a copy is made (e.g., DV0 or DV1) is referred to as the "primary" DC/BCV volume, and the DC/BCV volume (e.g., DV2) that makes the point-in-time copy is referred to as the "secondary" DC/BCV volume. In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGS. 9A-B, the entries in the GDAT/LDAT of table 500 differ for the primary and secondary DC/BCV volumes." "Thus, the embodiment of the GDAT/LDAT illustrated in Figs. 9A-B includes a field that identifies which mirror of the secondary logical volume is to be established as a mirror of the primary logical volume." As previously mentioned that mirroring of two logical volumes clearly anticipates the mapping of two volumes within an established window. Furthermore, the GDAT/LDAT is merely an illustration of a secondary volume making a point-in-time copy with the primary volume.)(Column 17, lines 50-57; column 18, lines 21-30), the primary volume may be restored to any point in time within the time window (i.e. "After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time. The snapshot copy can then be used to perform various operations (e.g., making a backup of the data or generating a report based on its contents) without disrupting or holding up access to the logical volume that was copied. When the desired operations have been completed, the logical connection between the DC/BCV logical volume and the copied logical volume may be reestablished, so that the DC/BCV volume can be updated with all changes that occurred to the copied volume while the logical connection had been de-established. In this manner, the DC/BCV volume can be used to provide a copy of the logical volume at a later point in time." The Examiner notes that a later point in time is an instance of any point in time.)(Column 6, lines 11-25).

Hence, the Applicant's arguments do not distinguish over the claimed invention over the prior art of record.

Any other arguments by the applicant are either more limiting than the claimed language or completely irrelevant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1-18, 20-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kedem (U.S. Patent 6,725,331).

As per claims 1, 10, 14, 20, 21, and 26 Kedem teaches a system for providing continuous data protection (i.e. *"As discussed above, there are other types of dynamic resource assignments that the storage system may employ in addition to dynamically assigning some targets as hot spares. Another example involves a feature provided in the SYMMETRIX line of disk arrays known as "dual copy" or "business continuance volumes" ("DC/BCVs")." "After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume*

at a particular point in time" "Alternatively, once the need for a point-in-time copy of the logical volume ceases, the DC/BCV volume can be dynamically assigned to another logical volume, or can be kept idle and available for use to make a point-in-time copy of another logical volume." The preceding text clearly indicates that continuous data protection is the business continuance volumes. Kadem states that a connection MAY be de-established, but does not state that connection must be disconnected, as the Applicant argues. Furthermore, an active, idle connection may also exist, as Kadem point out. Therefore, the continuity of data protection is clearly anticipated by Kadem.)(Column 5, lines 66-67; column 6, lines 1-4, lines 11-13, lines 25-30), the system comprising: a host computer (i.e. "Typically, data in a mass data storage system is accessed from a host computer in units called "logical volumes," with the host computer writing or reading data to the storage system using a logical volume address or "logical device volume number" (hereafter DV#).") (Column 1, lines 29-33); a primary volume for storing data written by the host computer (i.e. "Alternatively, it is possible in many systems to configure each physical storage device to store two or more logical volumes." "One example of this involves the dynamic assignment, during operation, of one or more of the system's physical devices (e.g., a disk drive or a portion thereof) to store a particular logical volume." The preceding text clearly indicates that a primary volume is one logical volume that stores data, which stored on a physical storage device.)(Column 1, lines 35-37; lines 45-48); a secondary volume wherein writes made to the primary volume are sequentially duplicated onto the secondary volume (i.e. "As discussed above, a statically configured DC/BCV logical volume (e.g., DV2) may be dynamically assigned as a DC/BCV copy of another logical volume in the system (e.g., DV0 or DV1). When a DC/BCV assignment is made, the volume of which a copy is made (e.g., DV0 or DV1) is referred to as the "primary" DC/BCV volume, and the DC/BCV volume (e.g., DV2) that makes the point-in-time copy is referred to as the "secondary" DC/BCV volume." The preceding text clearly indicates that sequentially duplicated is a copy between the primary and secondary volume.)(Column 17, lines 51-58), the secondary volume containing a chronological ordering of all writes made to the primary volume (i.e. "It should

be appreciated that many storage systems employ mirroring techniques for fault tolerance and performance reasons. For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different drives. When a logical volume is written, the write is carried out to all mirrors of the logical volume." The preceding text clearly indicates that when mirroring takes place, an ordinary person skilled in the art understands that mapping of the two logical volumes must occur for the mirroring to take place. Thereby, any and all writes are chronologically ordered (i.e. mirrored) between the two volumes.)(Column 5, lines 3-13); and a data protection system configured to manage the duplication of writes to the secondary volume and to map data between the primary volume and secondary volume using data structures, wherein the data structures are maintained so that within the established time window (i.e. "As discussed above, a statically configured DC/BCV logical volume (e.g., DV2) may be dynamically assigned as a DC/BCV copy of another logical volume in the system (e.g., DV0 or DV1). When a DC/BCV assignment is made, the volume of which a copy is made (e.g., DV0 or DV1) is referred to as the "primary" DC/BCV volume, and the DC/BCV volume (e.g., DV2) that makes the point-in-time copy is referred to as the "secondary" DC/BCV volume. In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGS. 9A-B, the entries in the GDAT/LDAT of table 500 differ for the primary and secondary DC/BCV volumes." Thus, the embodiment of the GDAT/LDAT illustrated in Figs. 9A-B includes a field that identifies which mirror of the secondary logical volume is to be established as a mirror of the primary logical volume." As previously mentioned that mirroring of two logical volumes clearly anticipates the mapping of two volumes within an established window. Furthermore, the GDAT/LDAT is merely an illustration of a secondary volume making a point-in-time copy with the primary volume.)(Column 17, lines 50-57; column 18, lines 21-30), the primary volume may be restored to any point in time within the time window (i.e. "After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time.

The snapshot copy can then be used to perform various operations (e.g., making a backup of the data or generating a report based on its contents) without disrupting or holding up access to the logical volume that was copied. When the desired operations have been completed, the logical connection between the DC/BCV logical volume and the copied logical volume may be reestablished, so that the DC/BCV volume can be updated with all changes that occurred to the copied volume while the logical connection had been de-established. In this manner, the DC/BCV volume can be used to provide a copy of the logical volume at a later point in time.” The Examiner notes that a later point in time is an instance of any point in time.)(Column 6, lines 11-25).

As per claims 2, 16, 22, and 27, Kedem teaches a system wherein the point-in-time map is created by creating a full mapping between the primary volume and secondary volume (i.e. “*For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different disk drives.*” “*After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time.*”)(Column 5, lines 5-9; column 6, lines 11-14).

As per claims 3 and 28, Kedem teaches a method further including the step of retaining particular points in time beyond the APIT window (i.e. “*Alternatively, once the need for the point-in-time copy of the logical volume ceases, the DC/BCV volume can be dynamically assigned to another logical volume, or can be kept idle and available for use to make a point-in-time copy of another logical volume.*”)(Column 6, lines 25-29).

As per claims 4 and 29, Kedem teaches a method wherein a point-in-time map is created by creating a full mapping between the primary volume and secondary volume for a point that is retained beyond the APIT window (i.e. *"For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different disk drives."* *"After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time."* *"Alternatively, once the need for the point-in-time copy of the logical volume ceases, the DC/BCV volume can be dynamically assigned to another logical volume, or can be kept idle and available for use to make a point-in-time copy of another logical volume."*)(Column 5, lines 5-9; column 6, lines 11-14, lines 25-29).

As per claims 5, 12, 17, 25 and 30, Kedem teaches a method wherein the full mapping is created by merging data structures ranging in time from time zero to a time when the snapshot was taken (i.e. *"For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different disk drives."* *"After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time."*)(Column 5, lines 5-9; column 6, lines 11-14).

As per claims 6, 13, 18, and 31, Kedem teaches a method wherein the full mapping is created by merging mapping data structures ranging in time from the time a point-in-time map created prior to the snapshot was taken to a time when the snapshot was taken (i.e. *"For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that*

could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different disk drives." "After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time.")(Column 5, lines 5-9; column 6, lines 11-14).

As per claims 7 and 33, Kedem teaches a method wherein data on the secondary volume that is outside of the identified APIT window is discarded (i.e. "Finally, a "not active mirror mask" field identifies which mirrors of the secondary volume (e.g., DV2) are not established as mirrors of the primary volume (e.g., DV1) when a DC/BCV connection is established. This entry "masks out" all mirrors of the secondary logical volume except for the one identified in the secondary mirror number entry. These "masked out" mirrors are deactivated while the DC/BCV connection is established, and are reactivated when the DC/BCV connection is de-established.")*(Column 18, lines 49-57).*

As per claims 8 and 34, Kedem teaches a method wherein data on the secondary volume that is outside of the identified APIT window is phased out according to a retention policy (i.e. "Finally, a "not active mirror mask" field identifies which mirrors of the secondary volume (e.g., DV2) are not established as mirrors of the primary volume (e.g., DV1) when a DC/BCV connection is established. This entry "masks out" all mirrors of the secondary logical volume except for the one identified in the secondary mirror number entry. These "masked out" mirrors are deactivated while the DC/BCV connection is established, and are reactivated when the DC/BCV connection is de-established.")*(Column 18, lines 49-57).*

As per claims 9 and 32, Kedem teaches a method further comprising the step of periodically creating point-in-time maps to reduce a number of data structures that are needed when performing a restore (i.e. *“For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different disk drives.” “After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time.” “Alternatively, once the need for the point-in-time copy of the logical volume ceases, the DC/BCV volume can be dynamically assigned to another logical volume, or can be kept idle and available for use to make a point-in-time copy of another logical volume.”*)(Column 5, lines 5-9; column 6, lines 11-14, lines 25-29).

As per claims 11 and 24, Kedem teaches a method wherein a snapshot is taken at a particular point in time within the identified time window (i.e. *“For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different disk drives.” “After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time.” “Alternatively, once the need for the point-in-time copy of the logical volume ceases, the DC/BCV volume can be dynamically assigned to another logical volume, or can be kept idle and available for use to make a point-in-time copy of another logical volume.”*)(Column 5, lines 5-9; column 6, lines 11-14, lines 25-29) and a full mapping of the primary and secondary volumes for the particular point time is created (i.e. *“For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different disk drives.” “After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to*

create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time.'')(Column 5, lines 5-9; column 6, lines 11-14).

As per claim 22, Kedem teaches a method wherein the triggering step includes inserting a marker into the write log, the marker indicating a time at which the snapshot is taken (i.e. *"For example, to protect critical data from equipment malfunction or other events that could result in a loss of data, many data storage systems are configured to store multiple mirrors of the same logical volume on two or more disk adapter targets, most typically on different disk drives."* "After the copy is made, the storage system may de-establish the connection to create a snapshot of the contents of the copied logical volume at a particular point in time.'')(Column 5, lines 5-9; column 6, lines 11-14).

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

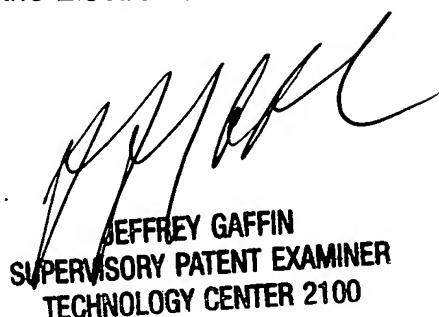
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farhan M. Syed whose telephone number is 571-272-7191. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FMS



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